

S.N. 09/199,655  
MATHIES ET AL.

ATTY. DKT. 71180-248272

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please replace claim 1 with:

1. A liquid-handling system for transferring liquid back and forth from at least one first container to at least one second container, comprising:
  - a first container;
  - a second container;
  - a housing encasing the first container in a pressure-tight manner;
  - a capillary tube having predetermined length and a predetermined internal diameter, wherein a first end of the tube is positioned near the bottom of the first container, wherein the tube extends through the housing, terminating in a second end positioned at or above the second container,
  - a second capillary tube having predetermined length and a predetermined internal diameter, wherein a first end of the tube is positioned near the bottom of the first container, wherein the tube extends through the housing, terminating in a second end positioned at or above a waste container, and,
  - a computer-controlled pressure altering device, attached to the housing in a pressure tight manner, that changes the pressure within the housing relative to the pressure outside the housing;
  - wherein the pressure-altering device applies a pressure differential that causes liquid contained in either the first container of the second container to be transferred through the capillary tube, and
  - whereby liquids are removed from the first container by the second capillary tube.

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42. A liquid-handling system for transferring liquid back and forth from at least one first container to at least one second container, comprising

a first container;

a second container;

a housing encasing the first container in a pressure-tight manner;

a capillary tube having predetermined length and a predetermined internal diameter, wherein a first end of the tube is positioned near the bottom of the first container, wherein the tube extends through the housing, terminating in a second end positioned at or above the second container;

a second capillary tube having predetermined length and a predetermined internal diameter, wherein a first end of the tube is positioned near the bottom of the first container; and,

a computer-controlled pressure altering device, attached to the housing in a pressure tight manner, that changes the pressure within the housing relative to the pressure outside the housing;

wherein the pressure-altering device applies a pressure differential that causes liquid contained in either the first container or the second container to be transferred through the capillary tube; and

whereby liquids are removed from the first container by the second capillary tube.

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Please add new claims 41 and 42 as follows:

41. A liquid-handling system for transferring liquid back and forth from at least one first container to at least one second container, comprising:

a first container,

a second container;

a housing encasing the first container in a pressure-tight manner;

a capillary tube having predetermined length and a predetermined internal diameter, wherein a first end of the tube is positioned near the bottom of the first container, wherein the tube extends through the housing, terminating in a second end positioned at or above the second container;

a second capillary tube having predetermined length and a predetermined internal diameter, wherein a first end of the tube is positioned near the bottom of the first container, wherein the tube extends through the housing, terminating in a second end positioned at or above a removal container; and,

*where* a computer-controlled pressure altering device, attached to the housing in a pressure tight manner, that changes the pressure within the housing relative to the pressure outside the housing;

wherein the pressure-altering device applies a pressure differential that causes liquid contained in either the first container or the second container to be transferred through the capillary tube; and

whereby liquids are removed from the first container by the second capillary tube.